

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2015

Aregenziano School 290 Washington Street Somerville, MA

Attendees:

Sellers-Garcia, Oliver – (member ex-officio) Dir. Office of Sustainability and Environment

Ranger, Andrea - Commissioner

Rooney-Varga, Juliette -Commissioner

Johnston, Eliza - Commissioner

Saunders, Alyssa - Commissioner

Miller, Matt - Commissioner

Basham, James - Attendee

Crowe, Jon - Attendee

Diamond, Sean - Attendee

Kleyman, Alexandra - Attendee

Lowitz, Melissa - Attendee

Luchner, Sarah - Attendee

Mensik,, Kristina - Attendee

Ostberg, Marcy- Attendee

Pierce, Jerrad - Attendee

Residential Energy Efficiency

City released an RFP for a new weatherization partner in December 2014. The Q&A period goes through January and proposals are due at the end of January 2015. The City is looking for a company or small group of companies that has creative ideas about how to reach landlords to do upgrades on rental units. The company will be able to deliver audits and weatherization projects and be able to make in-roads in Somerville due to its credible connection to City government.

Utility data will be collected on the participants and they're working to pull NSTAR to partner on this program.

City to meet with new NSTAR communities representative. NSTAR has provided aggregate residential and commercial gas and electric data for Somerville and aggregate streetlight (electricity) data.

Residential and small business solar

The City launched the solar interest survey in January and have had over 160 responses to the survey already. The survey results will help feed an RFP in the mid-year for solar PV vendor(s) to Somerville. City is looking to create a solar task force. The March meeting will likely focus on the solar program.

DOER has a handbook published on Community Solar Projects - we should review and use it as a guide.

GHG Inventory

Jamie Bemis - MIT intern to City of Somerville is tracking GHG data for City operations and adding it to Mass Energy Insight (MEI), a database that the state DOER maintains.

FY14 - FY15 data from NSTAR put into MEI. Have to manually input other fuels (non-utility) into MEI.

City is putting together an RFP for a GHG inventory to be released by the end of February or early March. The City is forming an internal working group on GHG's.

Somerville has applied to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. (MAPC) for an energy study. They would develop an energy "profile" of Somerville with a focus on identifying future projects and initiatives. Which buildings would be best for solar PV net metering? Which would be best for PPA's? What are the pros/cons of each?

Greentech RFI

iFund gave \$300k - loaned to get businesses to Somerville. Got many more responses to RFI from companies outside of Somerville although many were in the City - altogether 17 responses.

Interested in events where City could be a partner, City could pilot projects. Also looking for partners outside of the city. Fraunhofer CSE are potential partners.

Other business before the Commission

One Commission member mentioned that it would be helpful to have members of the Office of Strategic Planning and Development (OSPCD) attend our meetings. They are in the midst of overhauling zoning, with ongoing presentations and hearings, and will present to the Board of Aldermen soon. The CEUCC should provide feedback on the zoning plans during the comment period. When is the comment period?

A Commission member also brought up the idea of community aggregation again. It's beginning to capture the interest of the City but Somerville needs more information.

City released an RFP for a building automation system upgrade for the high school. DOER has approved of Green Communities funds for a street lighting audit.

Andy Offit works as special adviser to the mayor and has brought in a couple of people to talk about purchasing net metering credits as electricity supply.

City is considering setting up an RFP that would examine solar potential for the city and the cost of ownership versus costs of a power purchase agreement. (PPA).